Road tax

1677. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seventeen per cent of the estimated five crore vehicles do still pay road tax annually;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to bring such vehicles also within one-time road tax zone; and

(d) what are Government's plans to draw out a code for bus body design, pollution control and rationalisation of road tax throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The transport vehicles have to obtain fitness certificate annually and the permit for their plying on roads is contingent on such vehicles proving their fitness. Annual payment of tax is paid at the time of obtaining the fitness certificate. There is no plan to bring these vehicles in the one-time road tax zone.

(d) During the 30th meeting of the Transport Development Council (TDC) held on 16.1.2003, the States agreed to the need for regulating the bus body building activity based on Standard Code of Practice for Bus Body Design. For pollution control, it was agreed to introduce measurement of Hydrocarbon emissions, as also to tighten emission norms in respect of post 2000 new generation vehicles. The States, however, did not favour the rationalisation of taxes on grounds of revenue loss.

Funds for road safety awareness programme

1678. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAND (DURRU): Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the NGOs of Rajasthan for allocation of funds for promoting road safety awareness programmes;